GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1184
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
FATAL ACCIDENTS IN PORTS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fatal accidents in ports are increasing;

(b) if so, the details of the accidents during each of the last three years, port-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government to check the same;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any inspection in factories, docks to identify the causes leading to accidents and suggesting remedial measures to minimize the accidents;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether some of the States have not yet notified the model rules as well as major accident hazards control rules framed by the Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI); and

(g) if so, the steps taken to persuade the remaining State Governments to frame relevant safety rules under the Factories Act without any further delay ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): The number of accidents (fatal as well as non-fatal) show a reducing trend over the years. From 4709 accidents in year 1956, the number has come down to 171 during last year. However, no definite trend is noticed in case of fatal accidents which had reduced from 29 to 23 during the year 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, but again rose to 29 in the last year. The ports-wise details are given below:-

NO. OF FATAL ACCIDENTS IN THE PORTS

Name of the Port	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Mumbai	5	4	6
Kolkata	2	4	4
Cochin	1	0	0
Kandla	3	1	6
Chennai	4	8	5
Mormugao	0	0	0
New Mangalore	1	0	1
Paradip	1	1	1
Tuticorin	6	0	2
Visakhapatnam	2	2	1
Jawaharlal Nehru Port	4	3	3
Total	29	23	29

(c): The Inspectorates of Dock Safety investigate these fatal accidents and follow-up actions like prosecution of concerned employers, issuing of warning orders/show cause notices, rendering technical advices for improvement of the working conditions/technical

competence of the workers etc., were issued to the Port managements. During the year 2001-2002 five prosecutions were launched against the employers of Dock workers for breach of provisions under Dock Safety statutes, thirty four warnings have been issued to the concerned employers, twenty four technical advices were rendered to Port authorities and Transporters. Analysis of fatal accidents had revealed that about 60% of these accidents had occurred due to the agency `mean of transportation`. Therefore, Directorate General of Factory Advice Services & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) undertook a National Study on `Transport Equipment Safety and Road Accidents in Ports`. As a result of this study some of the port authorities have initiated training of workers/operators engaged in the transportation sector. Sefety audits have also being conducted in all major ports and suggestions/recommendations for improvement of safety and health status in Ports were issued. Training modules were prepared by DGFASLI and a number of training programmes were conducted in collaboration with Port Trust Authorities and Indian Institutes of Port Management.

(d) & (e): The safety, health and welfare of workers employed in factories are covered under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948. The enforcement of the Act is carried out by the respective State Government/Union Territory Administration (UT) through their Factory Inspectorates. In addition to routine inspection of factories, the Inspectors of Factories also conduct investigations of accidents to identify the causes and suggest remedial measures. DGFASLI advises various States/UTs in improving safety and healthof workers employed in factories. It renders advice in identification of hazards, their elimination and control, selection of suitable personal, protective equipment for workers, formulation of safe operating procedures, etc. It also conducts studies and surveys, training programmes, workshops, etc., for the benefit of persons employed in factories.
Safety, Health and Welfare of workers employed in docks and ports are covered under the provisions of Dock Workers (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act, 1986. The enforcement is carried out by DGFASLI through Inspectorates of Dock Safety established in all the major ports through regular inspections of ships, docks, warehouses, store places, lifting machineries, loose gears, transport equipments, mechanical handling plants etc., with a view to control unsafe working conditions, prevent unsafe actions by the dock workers and other concerned and to take necessary follow-up action which includes issuing of notice, warnings, action on complaints, etc.

(f) & (g): The Model Rules framed under the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1987 were circulated to States/UTs for their notification under respective State Factories Rules, 19 States/UTs have notified these Rules.

The Major Accident Hazard Control Rules, 1997 were also circulated to all States/UTs for their notification.Seven States/UTs have notified these Rules.

The State Governments/UTs are being regularly reminded to notify the above Rules by DGFASLI/Ministry of Labour.